

Winters Run

Well the weather gods played with our heads all week. First it was going to be sunny all day, then rainy all day. Turned out to be foggy, cloudy, sunny, and just dang nice. Only a few damp spots on the road. We had a nice group of 16 riders and I only made one mistake in the route...quickly caught. We had sixteen bikes with regulars Leo Aquino, Ed Buckner, Steve Dodini, Gary and Beth Helm, Tom Hendrix, Skip Moffatt, George Schjelderup, Tom Van Zuiden, Frank White, Jeff Williams, and myself. New riders to the groups were Tammy Hendrix, Chris and Lori Thorne, Brian Blevin, and Roger Fagan.

The ride out Wooden Valley Rd was gentle with no traffic to concern us. We gathered at Hwy 121 and made the turn North. Here we ran into a yellow sports car. He almost didn't use the turn off. A quick horn beep and he pulled over. We had a nice stop at the corners where Leo bid us good day and headed home. We headed out Hwy 128 and again traffic was just absent. So very nice. We made another rest stop at the boat landing before heading down the road. I had too many layers on and had to remove one or melt. Much better. We got on Silverado Trail and again no traffic to count. And I missed the turn for Mt Hamilton. I was looking and just plain missed it. We had to do a u-turn and now the traffic came into play. Eventually we made our way back to the entrance and entered one narrow, windy, little goat trail. I kept my speed near 25-30, just puttering along and enjoying the sweet views. The ride up the hill into Angwin was still without traffic. I maintained a mellow speed through town. As we left town, the road narrowed and I held the group speed down as the downhill sections were likely still wet and/or dirty. Not too bad though. Now on the flatter roads of Pope Valley, we opened up the throttle a bit. We took another break at the lake. Tom and Tammy Hendrix took their leave.

As we left the lake, I told everyone we were going straight through to Winters and got nods all along. The ride along the lake had mostly clean, dry roads, with little to no traffic. We got onto Hwy 128 and made the turn at the corners. We ran into one slow car that wouldn't pull over. As we neared Winters, we came up behind a slow biker. He rode steady and smooth. He just didn't stay to the right. It made it hard to bypass him.

In Winters, Frank, George, and others were going straight into town for food as they didn't need gas. I pulled us into a gas station right at Grant and Railroad only to find out it is a diesel only station. I rallied the troops and aimed for the planned station. After gas, we headed into town for food. Once we parked, I pointed out the various places for food. I aimed for the deli and seven of us went there. The food was good and modestly priced. We gathered back at the bikes. I saw Frank and George at the other end of the parking lot. They got on their bikes and were gone. I looked around and did not see and other than us seven. So we got suited up and just then Tom Van Zuiden came up and said he was going home via the freeway along with Gary and Beth. Oh, there were parked on the street. That's where I lost them. Riding through town got us to Putah Creek Rd. It is a smooth road with mild twisties. It got us to Pleasants Valley Rd. This is always a nice road. It's narrow and tightly twistied at times, then the road opens up and you can just gently cruise. But alas, we came up to Hwy 80 and then joined traffic and the real world.

One great day.